as a follow up of an MOU signed between Punjab Olympic Association (India) and its counterpart in Pakistan. The Government has approved financial assistance up to Rs. 5.00 crores for these games.

Non- Utilisation of Funds by National Sports Federations

†3274. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Sports Federations do not utilise the financial assistance given by Government in a appropriate way; and

(b) the details regarding modes adopted by these sports federations for utilising the fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) There have been some complaints about mis-appropriation of Government grants by the National Sports Federations (NSFs). Any complaint against any NSF about mis-utilization of funds etc. is processed promptly after ascertaining the comments of the concerned NSF.

(b) To ensure proper utilization of Government assistance, Utilization Certificate, Statement of Accounts duly audited by the Chartered Accountants are received from the NSFs and further assistance is released only on receipt of these documents. Further, this Ministry has issued sanction for audit of NSFs getting assistance exceeding Rs. one crore in a year throught Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

Lack of Communication by SAI

3275. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to reported mismanagement and lack of communication by Sports Authority of India (SAI), the Indian fencing team being denied entry in the Asian Fencing Championship, to be held in Malaysia in July 2005;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian team was given rigorous training by a foreign coach engaged by SAI and an amount of around Rs. five lakh was spent at the camp organised at Imphal; and

(c) if so, the reasons for which the above mentioned Indian team not participating at Asian meet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports did not clear the proposal of Fencing Association of India (FAI) for participation in the Asian Fencing Championship on account of FAI failing to furnish, in time, the objective rationale for selection of team for participation.

Youth Festival in Venezuela

3276. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are sending a delegation for a youth festival in Venezuela;

(b) if so, what is the criteria for selection;

(c) which are the youth organization likely to be selected or contacted;

(d) what are the names of delegates and their organizations; and

(e) what is the total cost incurred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Government has not sent any official delegation. However, financial assistance for travel has been provided to National Preparatory Committee of India for sending a delegation to Youth Festival in Venezuela.

(b) and (c) National Preparatory Committee of India has selected the names of the participants.

(d) Approved list of delegates is enclosed, as per Statement.

(e) Exact amount of the total cost will be known after the travel bills are settled with the travel agent.